

## Paving the Way for Graphene in Malaysia

### Datuk Mark Rozario

#### Speaker

**Background:** Datuk Mark Rozario was Group Managing Director of a Malaysian listed property group, before stepping down to assume his current role at AIM in 2011. He is charged with driving AIM, a government statutory body chaired by the country's Prime Minister, to implement a national innovation strategy. AIM was created to jump start wealth creation through knowledge, technology and innovation thereby stimulating and developing the innovation eco-system in Malaysia. By laying down the foundation of innovation, AIM hopes to inspire and produce a new generation of innovative entrepreneurs.

Datuk Mark Rozario graduated with a BSc degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

#### Summary

**Points:** In 2013, Malaysia began exploring the right opportunities for its domestic industries by identifying which Graphene-enabled applications can catalyse growth regionally.

Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM) was tasked together with NanoMalaysia Berhad. (NMB) with coming up with a National Graphene Action Plan to assess how Malaysia could benefit from the potential of Graphene.

The National Graphene Action Plan 2020 (NGAP2020) was the result of an extensive collaboration between the Malaysian government, private sector companies, domestic and international research institutes, and academia. NGAP2020, now being implemented by NMB under the guidance of the NGAP2020 Steering Committee aims to define how Malaysia can benefit from the considerable potential of Graphene, and set an approach and roadmap to capture this potential.

Capturing this opportunity will require concerted efforts across several stakeholder groups in the public, private and academic sectors. NMB and AIM are committed to assisting its companies, and play an active role in initiating and promoting the development of a Graphene ecosystem. This entails building awareness about the versatility of Graphene and its potential applications, and encouraging companies to invest in R&D, prototyping and early commercialisation. In parallel, the government through NMB and AIM will facilitate access to Graphene suppliers, domain experts, and prototyping facilities; assist with navigating the IP landscape; and provide access to any available funding support.

AIM intends to continue supporting NMB to pave the way for Graphene in Malaysia by providing AIM's various approaches to innovation as stated in its mandate which is to jump start wealth creation through knowledge, technology and innovation to stimulate and develop the innovation eco-system in Malaysia via six key approaches to innovation

1. Cultivating a thinking culture
2. Innovation for and by society
3. Facilitating industry-academia collaboration
4. Transforming Strategic sectors
5. Innovating organisations
6. Catalyse commercialisation